

## CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 10-18 (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A method for ~~protecting a cathode structure preventing contamination~~ of a field emission display device, said method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) providing a cathode structure of a field emission display device, said cathode structure comprising an electron emitting structure disposed above one side thereof, ~~wherein said cathode structure comprises high-sodium glass~~; and

b) disposing a substantially continuous barrier layer of substantially uniform thickness over said one side of said cathode structure, wherein said barrier layer ~~prevents penetration by electrons is configured to prevent migration of~~ contaminants from said cathode structure into an active region of said field emission display device.

37. (Currently Amended) The method for ~~protecting a cathode structure of a field emission display device~~ as recited in Claim 36 wherein said cathode structure comprises a cathode substrate of said field emission display device.

38. (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for protecting a cathode structure of a field emission display device~~ as recited in Claim 36 wherein ~~step said~~ b) comprises disposing said barrier layer over said cathode structure such that said barrier layer has a thickness sufficient to prevent substantial penetration of said electrons therethrough.

40. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for protecting a cathode structure of a field emission display device~~ as recited in Claim 36 wherein ~~step said~~ b) comprises disposing a barrier layer over said cathode structure wherein said barrier layer is selected from the group consisting of silicon dioxide,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{CrO}_x$ ,  $\text{ZnO}$ ,  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{TaO}_5$ , Tin Oxide, ITO,  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{Y}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiO}_2$  and  $\text{MgO}$  and combinations thereof.

41. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for protecting a cathode structure of a field emission display device~~ as recited in Claim 36 wherein ~~step said~~ b) comprises disposing ~~said~~ a barrier layer of silicon dioxide to a thickness of approximately 100 nanometers over said substrate structure.

42. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for protecting a cathode structure of a field emission display device~~ as recited in Claim 36 wherein ~~step said~~ b) comprises disposing said barrier layer over said cathode structure wherein said barrier layer prevents migration of contaminants from said cathode structure into said field emission display device.

43. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for protecting a cathode structure of a field emission display device~~ as recited in Claim 36 wherein ~~step~~ said b) comprises disposing said barrier layer over said cathode structure such that said barrier layer prevents migration of sodium from said substrate structure into said field emission display device.

44. (Currently Amended) The method ~~for protecting a cathode structure of a field emission display device~~ as recited in Claim 36 wherein ~~step~~ said b) comprises disposing an electrically conductive barrier layer over said cathode structure.

Claims 45-51 (Canceled)

52. (new) The method of Claim 36 wherein said cathode structure comprises high sodium glass.

53. (new) A field emission display device comprising means for preventing migration of contaminants from a cathode structure into an active region of said field emission display device.

54. (new) The field emission display device of Claim 53 wherein said cathode structure comprises high sodium glass.

55. (new) The field emission display device of Claim 53 wherein said preventing means comprises a substantially continuous

barrier layer of substantially uniform thickness between said cathode structure and plurality of cathode emitters.

56. (new) The field emission display device of Claim 55 wherein said barrier layer is configured to prevent substantial penetration of electrons from said cathode emitters into said cathode structure.

57. (new) The field emission display device of Claim 55 wherein said barrier layer comprises a material of a material thickness and wherein said material of said material thickness are sufficient to prevent substantial penetration of electrons from said cathode emitters into said cathode structure.

58. (new) The field emission display device of Claim 54 wherein said barrier layer comprises silicon dioxide about 100 nanometers thick.